

**Tuberculin Testing of California Dairy Herds.**—On page 91 of the July, 1936, issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE was printed the resolution on Tuberculin Testing of California Dairy Herds, adopted at the recent Coronado annual session by the House of Delegates. On this same subject, the Los Angeles *Herald-Express* of July 22 printed the following item:

CATTLE TESTS COVER WIDE CALIFORNIA AREA

By United Press

SACRAMENTO, July 22.—With the start of work recently in Colusa County, the Federal bovine tuberculosis eradication program in California has been extended to twenty-three counties, it was announced here.

In the past month most of the Federal testing, authorized under the Jones-Connally act, has been done in the counties of Humboldt, Sonoma, Marin, San Joaquin, Fresno, Kings and Tulare.

"Under the Federal-state cooperative eradication program, retesting of previously infected herds has been conducted recently in the counties of Del Norte, Butte, Orange and San Bernardino," a report of the State Department of Agriculture said.

Reduce Infection

"By reason of the eradication work, extent of infection in those counties has been reduced to a very low point. Retesting has been started more recently in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. In the eradication of bovine tuberculosis it is necessary to retest herds periodically in order to assure the elimination of possible sources of infection."

The report also pointed out that testing under the pure milk provisions of the state law has been completed in San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Benito counties.

Milk Tested

"This work is required in connection with the law covering distribution of dairy products in the raw state for human consumption," the report explained. "If the cattle are not free from tuberculosis as indicated by tests, the dairy products must be pasteurized. This pure milk testing is conducted regularly by the department in counties which have not been designated tuberculosis control areas."

It was announced recently by Los Angeles health authorities that northern California cattle which have not undergone non-tuberculin tests would be banned from Los Angeles. The order was held necessary because of activities of minority groups in refusing to have their herds tested.

## LETTERS

### Concerning status of proposed "Open County Hospital Initiative"; report from Public Health League.\*

Los Angeles, July 22, 1936.

*To the Editor:*—We have just completed a check-up on the county hospital proposition with the results as noted in the enclosed. I thought perhaps you might want to use this in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

BEN H. READ,  
*Executive Secretary.*

563 Chamber of Commerce Building.

The Public Health League reports that a survey of all of the counties of the state indicates that scattered petitions for the County Hospital Initiative were filed in eleven counties with a total of approximately 12,500 valid signatures. Sponsors of the proposal had notified their local committees not to file the petitions at this time and had wired several county clerks not to accept petitions. But a few were filed in eleven counties despite these instructions.

In announcing that the county hospital proposal would not be placed on the November ballot, Harvey S. Van Vlear, secretary of the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau, gave two reasons: one that the ballot will contain about forty proposals and it is feared the hospital plan would not receive adequate study. The other reason was that

heavy rejections of signatures by county clerks might invalidate the petitions. It was stated that 100,000 voters had signed the petitions up to July 10.

The sponsors of the proposal have announced that they will continue to circulate the petitions until the required 186,000 valid signatures are secured—some time this fall. This will qualify it for the 1938 election or for any special election that may be called during the coming year. Commenting upon this strategy, the Stockton *Record* editorially hints that the issue may be used as a weapon when the legislature meets in January. The editorial says:

"By holding up the proposed initiative until a later election, sponsors of the movement will escape the necessity of trying to impress an obviously overburdened public. They will place themselves in a position to more carefully lay the groundwork for a campaign in a year when fewer diverting interests exist. What they have done to date will in no way lose its value. With the initiative ready to qualify at a moment's notice the issue will remain alive and may even serve a valuable purpose when the legislature meets."

Thus it is seen that this subject is still with us and will continue to be of paramount political importance until it finally reaches a vote of the people either in 1937 or 1938.

### Concerning proposed initiative to open county hospitals to both indigent and pay patients.

July 7, 1936.

*To the Editor:*—The attached copy of a letter to Dr. Louis A. Packard, Bakersfield, is self-explanatory and is sent for your information.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,  
*Director of Public Health,*  
*City and County of San Francisco.*

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LOUIS A. PACKARD, M. D.  
BAKERSFIELD  
CALIFORNIA

June 30, 1936.

J. C. Geiger, M. D.,  
50 Ventura Avenue,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Doctor Geiger:

I am taking the liberty to remind you by letter of the promise you made at Coronado following the meeting of the House of Delegates. I have been reminded on numerous occasions since that evening by other delegates who were present and heard the conversation and asked if you had offered any solution. Only this morning I received another communication from the northern part of the state to that effect.

Since you were so positive in your statement before the House of Delegates and since your comments were at least partly responsible for the application of the drastic tabling move we feel that you should carry out your promise to offer a solution. I am certain that all of those present felt that it would be no great effort on your part.

Awaiting your reply with pleasure, I am,

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS A. PACKARD, M. D.

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OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
CITY AND COUNTY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

July 7, 1936.

Louis A. Packard, M. D.,  
Haberfelde Building,  
Bakersfield, California.

My dear Doctor Packard:

Thank you very much for your note of June 30, relative to the initiative petition now being circulated opening county hospitals for pay patients. As I had a previous

\* See also editorial comment in this issue, on page 113.